

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, January 27, 1879, with transcript

L. 1879 G.G.H. to Alec Bell Telephone Jany. 27 Washington, D.C. Cause of Condition

May has just finished reading a portion of your letter of Friday, from Milton Hill. It gives me a much better idea of the position of affairs than I had before, and I am not surprised at Mr. Forbes view of the condition of things. — I can only say that as far as my department is concerned I challenge the fullest investigation, well knowing that the result will be most favorable. — All our difficulties arise from the Chicago business, without that we should be free from debt, and in a good position. We were forced into this business contrary to our wishes and intentions — since I could have sold out to West. Union, but both times we were unanimous in opinion that it was not for our interests to do so. The cost has very much exceeded our anticipations. It is unfortunate, but there is no one to blame.

I had nothing to do with the finances and always stated to the gentlemen that I could not have anything to do with them. If our books had been kept up properly, and the finances looked after as they 2 challenges comparison of his dept. with any other should have been we should never have been in this position. My department has been making contracts and introducing the telephone generally, and I say without fear of contradiction that the history of patents cannot show an invention so generally introduced and such favorable contracts made, against such powerful opposition as in the case of the Bell Telephone Company.

We are now in debt, I am ready to unite with you and the others in any plan that shall seem the most desirable; but I cannot have the blame for acts not in my department placed on my shoulders. I have felt for a year, and expressed my opinion on every proper occasion, that Mr. Sanders was not a fit man for the Treasurer of the Company, and that

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all our difficulties could have been avoided with a good Treasurer. I believe now all agree with this view.